

State of Connecticut

RICHARD BLUMENTHAL
ATTORNEY GENERAL



Hartford

July 2, 2009

Michael Carpenter
United States Fish and Wildlife Service
Division of Management Authority
4401 North Fairfax Drive, Room 212
Arlington, Virginia 22203

Via fax 703-358-2281

Dear Mr. Carpenter:

I am writing to urge your careful and considered review of the application by Lionshare Farm Zoological in Greenwich Connecticut (PRT-210329) to import three cheetahs from South Africa for the Zoological Center on the premises.

The Zoological Center is located in proximity to a number of public places including the Parkway Elementary School, the North Street Elementary School, the Whitby School, the Greenwich Catholic School, and the Stanwich Golf Club. It is only a few miles from the central Greenwich district, a densely populated area. The Service no doubt will carefully consider the location of any dangerous animal subject to an importation application.

On June 1, 2009, People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals filed comments raising significant and serious concerns about the importation permit application, including whether the applicant is a charitable organization as asserted in the application. As the state office that supervises the solicitation of charitable funds in Connecticut, I have reviewed the Internal Revenue Service 501(c)(3) charity organization filings and cannot find any reference to a Lionshare farm or zoo. Questions about the veracity of this information raise concerns about the credibility of the information provided in the application.

I hope you will verify and confirm all information and consider the location of the cheetahs when determining whether to issue the importation permit. Thank you.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard Blumenthal".

RICHARD BLUMENTHAL